REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, new claim 21 will have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner. Thus, claims 2-14, 16-18, 20 and 21 are pending in the application.

Claim 21 substantially corresponds to claim 19, which was canceled in the previous response and was discussed with and indicated by the Examiner, as being directed to the same invention as other pending claims, during the telephone interview on December 6, 2010 and in the interview summary December 20, 2010. Similarly to previously submitted claim 20, the language of claim 21 has been changed from claim 19, to improve and enhance language clarity, based on the Examiner's request for further clarification, as expressed during the above-noted interview.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that at least based upon the argument set forth in the reply filed on December 15, 2010, none of the references cited in the Official Action of September 15, 2010, even if combined, disclose or suggest the combination of features as recited in each of the Applicant's claims, including the newly submitted claim.

Accordingly, in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, in conjunction with the response filed with the filing of an RCE, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, together with an indication of the allowability of the claims pending in the present application, in due course.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application into condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has submitted a new claim, which follows more precisely to the Examiner's indication during the interview, for consideration by the Examiner.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted, Kimiaki TOSHIKIYO

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